

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 734  
By Johnson R

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Moody F. "Benny"  
Stafford of Loudon County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of our friend and former colleague Moody F. "Benny" Stafford, a member of the House of Representatives of the 87<sup>th</sup> - 95<sup>th</sup> Tennessee General Assemblies, from 1971 until 1989; and

WHEREAS, Benny Stafford was an exemplary and conscientious public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens, especially those of the 21st House District, in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stafford served with much acumen and great enthusiasm for many years in the banking and insurance industries as Senior Vice President of First Heritage Bank of Loudon County and as the owner of four general insurance agencies, earning the respect of his peers and clients alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, born November 23, 1932, in Knox County, Tennessee, to Moody L. and Elizabeth L. Mills Stafford, Benny attended Loudon County public schools and graduated from Lenoir City High School; and

WHEREAS, proudly answering the call to duty, Mr. Stafford served 14 years in the United States Air Force; based in Germany and Japan, he saw action during the Korean Conflict and the Berlin Crisis of 1961; and

WHEREAS, honorably discharged after obtaining the rank of Captain, Mr. Stafford was awarded Korean Campaign Ribbons, the Korean Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Berlin Medal, a Purple Heart, and a Gold Leaf Cluster; he would later continue his military service with the Tennessee Air National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Benny Stafford was a devout member of Kingston Pike Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years as the director of both the Sunday School and Training Union and teaching the Adult Men's and Young People's classes over the years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stafford devoted his considerable abilities and his time to various civic and charitable organizations, including the Optimist Club, Civitan Club, Jaycees, Free and Accepted Masons, Order of the Mystic Shrine, and the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the House of Representatives, Benny Stafford served admirably as a member of the Agriculture, Calendar and Rules, Conservation and Environment, and Government Operations Committees; he was instrumental in obtaining funding for the Agriculture Expo Arena at Roane State Community College and sponsored the legislation establishing the Tellico Reservoir Development Agency; and

WHEREAS, a leader among his peers, Benny Stafford served two years as House Republican Whip and ten years as House Republican Caucus Chairman, the longest tenure of anyone who had served in that position at that time; and

WHEREAS, honored by Governor Ned McWherter with the Outstanding Tennessean Award, Mr. Stafford was the recipient of numerous awards and honors during his lifetime, including the Jaycees' Distinguished Service Award, the Optimist Clubs' Outstanding Leadership Award, and the Jaycees Outstanding Young Man of the Year Award in 1967; and

WHEREAS, Benny Stafford was also deeply devoted to his family, and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Shirley; and

WHEREAS, greatly respected and deeply admired by his many friends and colleagues, Mr. Stafford was a warm and affable man who loved East Tennessee and took great pride in making his community and state a better place for all; his unmatched record in public service and business stands as a monument to a life well lived; and

WHEREAS, Moody F. "Benny" Stafford leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of our beloved colleague, Representative Moody F. "Benny" Stafford, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character as a legislator, public servant, and human being, and commend his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Stafford.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.